(21) International Application Number:

## 

(81) Designated States: JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY,

## RGANIZATION

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7:

(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/70100

C12Q 1/70, C12N 15/00 A1

(43) International Publication Date: 23 November 2000 (23.11.00)

DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, (22) International Filing Date: 12 May 2000 (12.05.00) SE).

PCT/US00/13292

US

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14 May 1999 (14.05.99)

MA 01915 (US).

(30) Priority Data:

60/134,286

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Published

With international search report.

(54) Title: SURFACE DISPLAY OF SELENOCYSTEINE-CONTAINING PEPTIDES

## (57) Abstract

The naturally-occurring amino acid selenocysteine (SEC) is incorporated uniquely and specifically in the context of a polypeptide displayed on the surface of an amplifiable genetic particle (phage, cell or spore) in response to incorporation signals engineered in the encoding DNA. In addition to conferring the unique activities of the selenol group to the chemistry of the displayed peptide, Sec also provides a unique handle for specific chemical modification of the display peptide. In addition to increasing the palette of available residues in a random peptide library to 21 possibilities, present invention also provides a means of tethering virtually any desired chemical functionality to the incorporated Sec.

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